
R E P O R T

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS :

Medical Officer of Health :

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HITCHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my ANNUAL REPORT on the health and sanitary circumstances of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1937. The Report has been drawn up as far as possible, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular 1650, dated 4th October, 1937.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	82,559
Population —						
Registrar General's figures, May, 1938,	...					18,860
Registrar General's figures, May, 1937	...					18,900
Number of Inhabited Houses —						
December, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	6,042
December, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	5,916
Rateable Value —						
April, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	£88,725
April, 1938	...	...	...	...	...	£91,139
Sum represented by a penny rate to 31st						
March, 1938	...	...	...	...	...	£360
Number of Parishes in the Rural District	...					34

The amalgamation of the Parishes of Great and Little Wymondley accounts for the reduction of one on last year's figure of 35.

In view of the figures given showing the increase in the number of inhabited houses during the year, it is difficult to understand the slight decrease in population as given in the Registrar General's figures. These two figures give an average per house of 3.123 persons.

In my last Report, I drew attention to this strikingly low figure, which was then 3.19 per house. Again I would state that there is ample evidence to support an average of 3.5 inhabitants per house, which would give a population for the District of 21,647.

The question of population is one of vital importance in relation to present day Local Government administration, and in view of the progress made in other matters as shown in this Report, it is difficult to accept the Registrar General's estimate showing a decrease in population without some observations thereon.

Social Conditions.

The Area, while delightfully rural in character and environment, is so closely allied to urban areas and centres of population that one might say it is urban in outlook and increasingly so in respect to demands for social services. Intermingling with, and completely surrounding the five Urban Districts of Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock, Stevenage and Royston, while joining up with the large industrial town of Luton on the west, close to Welwyn Garden City and Outer London on the south, it is only to be expected that employment in these centres offers attractions to the inhabitants of the villages often to the detriment of agriculture, suggesting the only possible explanation of a decreased population.

Against this, however, must be set your continued efforts in housing, water supplies, sewage, and the extension of other services to improve the amenities of the villages in general and the agricultural population in particular.

Industrial conditions remain unchanged, agriculture being still predominant. The only works in the District likely to give rise to industrial diseases are the two Motor Coach works where cellulose spray painting is carried on, those who work here are well protected in accordance with the Home Office Regulations.

The electrification of the villages in the area continued through the year. Electricity is now available in every Parish.

Vital Statistics of the Year.

Births.

Legitimate — Male, 115 ; Female, 107.	Total	1936
Illegitimate — Male, 5 ; Female, 5.	232	246
Birth Rate		12.3
Do.— 1936		13.0
Do.— England and Wales		14.9

Deaths.

Males, 119 ; Females, 108 ; Total, 227.		
Death Rate		12
Do.— 1936		12.1
Do.— England and Wales		12.4

Infant Mortality.

Legitimate — Males, 5 ; Females, 5.	Total	
Illegitimate — Males, 1 ; Females, 0.	11	
Infant Mortality Rate		47.4
Do.— 1936		52.8
Do.— England and Wales		58

Still Births.

Legitimate — Males, 4 ; Females, 4.	Total	
Illegitimate — Males, 0 ; Females, 0.	8	
Still Birth Rate		0.42
Do.— 1936		0.5
Do.— England and Wales		0.6

The figures this year are somewhat disappointing as they show that the birth rate, which is the most important figure, has declined and is below what might be expected. A birth rate of 15 per 1,000 would be a satisfactory figure to maintain the population, and 12.3 as shown for this District is too low when compared with 14.9 for England and Wales: while in comparison with those for England and Wales the figures relating to Death Rate, Infant Mortality Rate and Still Births are favourable. On the whole, a picture of an ageing population.

Causes of Deaths.

The following table gives an analysis of the various causes of the 227 deaths which have occurred during the year.

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels	88
Diseases of the organs of respiration	17
Influenza	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1
Malignant Diseases	35
Measles	2
Senility	12
Puerperal conditions (not septic)	3
Other causes	57

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis, scarlet fever, diphtheria or infantile diarrhoea.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

Total number of children examined	670
Number with enlarged tonsils and adenoids ...	276
Number with defective teeth	63
Number with defective vision	61

The number of children examined is a good average and the parents seem to take an increased interest in Medical Inspections. The condition of the teeth is improved, but in some villages there seems to be difficulty in getting other defects remedied. There is no doubt, however, that the conditions of the children continue to improve and due credit should be given to all those whose interest and continued efforts assist in no small way to this end.

There is still room for considerable improvements in the sanitary conditions of many of the rural schools and it is some consolation to anticipate the completion of water schemes now in progress, the provision of improved sewage which must of necessity follow, and the rapid progress in sanitation of Schools which must be effected.

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Officials.

(a) Medical.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part time officer, holding a Diploma in Public Health. He is also Medical Officer of Health for Hitchin Urban and Royston Urban Districts, is Assistant School Medical Officer for the County and Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

(b) Sanitary.

In September of the year under review, the Council decided to appoint an Additional Sanitary Inspector, to replace the Assistant Inspector who had obtained an appointment with Cuckfield Urban. There are now two fully qualified whole-time Sanitary Inspectors in the District.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of the Sanitary Inspectors Examination Board (London), 1920, including the qualification as an Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

The Additional Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board, also the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as an Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

(c) Clerical.

At the end of the year the Council considered the need for, and duly appointed, a Clerk in the Public Health Department.

Office Accommodation.

Consequent on the continued growth of work and increasing Staff, it was found necessary early in the year, to obtain improved accommodation for the Staff, then accommodated at Bank Chambers where the Sanitary Inspectors were confined to one small room while the Surveyor and his Staff, the Rating Valuer, and Rent Collector were equally inconvenienced.

In May, 1937, the Staff from Bank Chambers moved into more commodious premises at No. 21 Bancroft, where the Sanitary Inspectors have two good rooms and a suitable store on the ground floor.

Nursing in the home.

(a) General.

The arrangements for this valuable service in the Area are directed by the County Council in co-operation with the District Nursing Association. The District is well served by eleven nurses, all certified midwives, who in addition to their duties as midwives, render services in connection with sickness in the home which are highly valued and much appreciated.

These nurses reside at the following centres, viz: — Ashwell, Barkway, Codicote, Kelshall, Kimpton, King's Walden, Knebworth, Offley, Pirton, St. Ippollitts and Weston.

(b) **Infectious Diseases.**

No special provision is made for nursing cases of infectious disease, at home. Every effort is made by the Medical Practitioner and if necessary by the Public Health Department, to ensure that no notified case of infectious disease is nursed at home, where there is any danger of dissimulation.

(c) **Midwifery.**

In addition to the District Nurses, to whom reference has been already made, Certified Midwives are available in nearby Urban Districts. No arrangements have been made for a direct employment of, or subsidy to Midwives.

Hospitals.

(a) **Medical and Surgical.**

There are no hospitals situate within the District for cases of general sickness or accidents needing hospital treatment and these are received at one of the under-mentioned hospitals, situate in adjoining Districts: —

- (1) North Herts. and South Beds. Hospital at Hitchin.
- (2) Letchworth Hospital, Baldock Road, Letchworth.
- (3) Royston Hospital, London Road, Royston.
- (4) Welwyn Hospital, Welwyn.

(b) **Infectious Diseases.**

Cases of infectious diseases occurring are removed without undue delay to the Isolation Hospital, Hitchin Road, Letchworth.

Under the control of the North Herts. Joint Hospital Board, since October, 1936, this hospital now serves the Urban Districts of Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Stevenage, also the Rural Districts of Hitchin and Welwyn.

Erected by this Council in 1915, it was from April, 1919, to October, 1936, managed by the Hitchin Rural District and Letchworth Urban Joint Hospital Board.

Since the date of opening, 2,636 cases have been admitted, and 55 deaths have occurred from the undermentioned causes: —

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

The percentage of death is 2.09 of the cases admitted.

This good result is largely due to the co-operation of Medical Practitioners in sending cases quickly to hospital, sometimes even before the diagnosis was confirmed. Much can be done to-day by treating these infectious diseases in the early stages and the Joint Hospital Board is anxious to encourage the early admission of patients.

Facilities are available at the hospital for the steam disinfection of clothing and bedding for which a nominal charge is made. This service is additional to the routine disinfection carried out at the house on the removal of a patient to hospital.

(c) **Small Pox.**

As part of the County scheme for the treatment and control of this disease a Small Pox Hospital is maintained and equipped at Langley in the Rural District. Again I am pleased to report that there has been no call during the year under review, on the accommodation thus provided.

(d) **Tuberculosis.**

The treatment of this disease is under the control of the County Council. Dispensaries or Clinics are established at Hitchin and Letchworth while the County Sanatorium at Ware Park, offers valuable facilities for observation, treatment and cure of this disease. A pleasure occurring with increasing frequency is to record against the name of a registered patient receiving treatment at Ware Park, the words, "is now, in the opinion of the Tuberculosis Officer, cured."

(e) **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Welwyn Hospitals have call upon fully equipped motor Ambulances, for use in connection with General Sickness or Accident cases, while for cases of Infectious Disease the Joint Hospital Board provide an up-to-date motor Ambulance.

(f) **Laboratory Facilities.**

Medical Practitioners can obtain swabs and anti-toxins at the Isolation Hospital in case of emergency. There are no laboratory facilities in the locality. Swabs and specimens on which reports are desired are dealt with by the Clinical Research Association, or by The Counties Public Health Laboratories, London.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies.

Good progress is now being made towards the completion of the two Schemes for supplying water to 14 Parishes in the District. Meanwhile every care has been exercised to ensure that all existing supplies used by the public, whether piped supplies, boreholes, or ordinary wells, are yielding a wholesome supply of water and that where supplies are short, provision is made for necessary storage of water carted to the village from a reliable source.

On the completion of the present undertakings there will remain only three small Parishes without a piped supply, either public or private ; these are —Caldecote, Hexton and Radwell, and of these Hexton has a partial piped supply from a reservoir in the hills, water of which is lifted by hydraulic ram from a spring on the estate. Many of the cottages obtain water from the overflow of a spring carried by glazed earthen pipes to catchpits over which a hand pump is fixed. It would not appear to me to be a difficult matter to obtain a piped supply to all dwelling houses in this Parish.

Of the samples taken to December 31st, 1937, 15 in number, none were submitted for Bacteriological Examination, and 15 for Chemical Examination. Reports were generally good.

Water for existing supplies is still drawn from:—

Hitchin Urban District	...	...	...	for Ickleford and St. Ippollitts
Stevenage Urban District	...	...	...	for Graveley and portions of Wymondley
Hertford Rural District	...	...	...	for Shephall

Other local sources include: —

Private deep well and Borehole to supply Knebworth
Deep boreholes provided by the Council at: Weston,
Ashwell, Codicote, Peters Green, Cockernhoe,
Pirton, and Wymondley,

with several small boreholes provided on Housing Sites in addition to numerous deep wells.

It is hoped that nearly all these latter sources will be unnecessary when the new scheme is working, which should be during the current year.

Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

Two small extensions were made to existing sewers at Codicote and Pirton in order to make possible the drainage of certain premises at which nuisances existed by reason of insufficient or defective drainage.

A Sub-Committee was formed to consider the question of the provision of new sewers throughout the District, and report first on urgent schemes, following which, Messrs. Balfour & Sons were instructed to prepare a scheme for the Parishes of: St. Paul's Walden (Whitwell) and Kimpton, with Pumping Station at Codicote. King's Walden (Breachwood Green), Ickleford and Knebworth disposal works.

The Committee gave consideration to schemes involving a total capital expenditure of approximately £170,000. This scheme in a rural area is made possible by co-operation with, and assistance from, the County Council, and will be a great boon. Much of this work is long overdue, but hitherto impossible by reason of statutory financial limitations. There are unsavoury spots in many villages consequent of drains discharging into ditches, old and defective piped water courses used as sewers, numerous cesspools the contents of which are pumped on to small plots of ground, which too long have been the graveyards for domestic sewage.

The Public Health Department will welcome the opportunity the provision of sewers will offer, to secure improved sanitation for the country dwellings. The demand for such improvements in the villages is heard on every hand.

That increasing use is being made of existing sewage accommodation is shown in the fact that of the 136 dwelling-houses completed during the year, 94 were drained to sewers and only in 42 was sanitation of the earth closet type provided. In addition 42 dwelling-houses were drained or re-drained and connected up, involving the provision of 36 additional water closets, and 36 scullery sinks.

Rivers and Streams.

The water shed between the Lea and Ouse catchment areas, is found on contour to be from north-west to east of the area ; the main rivers or streams are, in the south, the Rivers Mimram and Bean, both of which have their sources in the District and are tributaries of the River Lea, and on the north, the River Hiz, tributary of the Ouse, with three smaller tributaries of the Hiz at Ashbrook, Ickleford and Holwell. A careful watch has been kept on possible sources of pollution, including works, and it was not found necessary to serve any notices in this connection.

Some little difficulty was experienced at Broom Barn, where land subject to flooding in the area of the River Bean, is used for Refuse Disposal. The Council's attention was called to this matter by the Engineer of the Lea Conservancy Board. Immediate attention was given and the water released.

The possible danger of river pollution from small sewage disposal works or sewage farms was made known to the Council as owners of such works, early in the year under review. Consequent on heavy storms, sewage from the Whitwell sewer overflowed into the River Mimram, causing pollution and damage to fisheries which resulted in a heavy claim against the Council.

The elimination of small and inefficient sewage farms should, and I have every confidence will, be the aim of the Council in future sewage schemes.

Public Cleansing — Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service has continued as in previous years, namely a weekly collection of all house refuse, in the Parish of Knebworth, and a collection of indestructible refuse in the remaining 33 Parishes, once every four weeks. The work is carried out by direct labour, using a 7 cubic yard S.D. freighter ; the staff for this work is composed of: a driver, who is in charge of the work, two loaders, one of whom is a relief driver, and two men for work on disposal tips. The gradual increase of the work, both in the number of houses and the increasing yield, has necessitated the employment of one of the tip men as a loader for at least 1½ days per week.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in eight tips, situate at: Barkway, Therfield, Wellington, Almshoe, Broom Barn, Codicote, Kimpton and Lilley Bottom. There is some difficulty in maintaining complete control owing to the fact that where indestructible refuse only is collected, the tips are open for the public to dispose of such refuse as they may wish to themselves remove. This is far from satisfactory and I visualise the early necessity for a more frequent collection in these Parishes and the removal of all house refuse.

The cost of this service for the year is £1,010, which with the produce of a penny rate, £360, represents a charge to the ratepayer of 2.8 pence in the pound, which is the same figure as last year.

The number of calls has increased by approximately 160 per week to 103,000 per annum, giving an average cost of 2.35 pence per call.

It is not practicable in this District to keep a careful check on the weight of refuse collected, but from check weighing made, the estimated weight of refuse removed during the year is approximately 968 tons, or an all in cost of £1 1s. 8d. per ton. This compares with a figure of £1 3s. 2d. for last year.

The cost is still high compared with that of Urban Districts, but when the difference in mileage, and the sparsity of the population is considered the cost per call, and the rate in the pound is not unfavourable. Street cleansing in the District is under the control of the County Council.

Cesspools and Pail Closets.

The Council do not, at present, undertake the emptying of cesspools, or the removal of night soil. The gradual, but continued, voluntary conversion of earth-closets to water-closets and connection to existing sewers and extensions thereto, coupled with the prospect of new sewage schemes in the District, gives rise to a hope for more rapid decrease in the number of cesspools, and a corresponding increase in the number of water-closets. On the other hand, by reason of the fact that the increased sewer charge will be levied on all rated property, the Council will be wise to consider the possibility of some special service in this connection, for properties which cannot receive any benefit from the Council's sewers.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This work has been carried on consistently through the year and I am indebted to the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and his colleagues, first Mr. H. A. Ostler, followed in September by Mr. A. G. Underwood, for the following figures, prepared from their records:—

Total number of inspections for all purposes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,312
Divided as follows:—								
For defects under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,680
For defects under the Factory and Workshops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
For the prevention of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
As to the Sanitary Condition of Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Inspections under the Milk and Dairies Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	844
Inspections of slaughterhouses, butchers shops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	821
For the prevention of nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	864
Inspections of drainage, conversions, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	392
Inspections of water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	196
Inspections re Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Inspections under Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Unclassified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47

Summary of Action on matters out of inspections made under the Public Health Act (only):—

(a) Number of Informal Notices sent	...	...	128
(b) Number of Statutory Notices sent	...	...	Nil

Smoke Abatement.

No trouble was experienced during the year in this matter, and no action was necessary.

Premises and Occupations subject of control.

There is one Knacker's Yard, four fried fish shops and three marine stores, established in the District. These are visited at frequent intervals and no complaints have been received.

Itinerant dealers in marine stores continue to give some cause for concern at caravan encampments, mainly owing to their unsightliness. Frequent visits, coupled with advice and some cautions, have resulted in some improvement in this direction.

Rag and Flock Act, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the District in which rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.

Housing.

The year opened with the coming into operation of the Housing Act, 1936. Of the many duties undertaken by Local Authorities, that of Housing is second to none in importance. In Rural Areas the maintenance or depletion of the population is often a reflection on the housing conditions in that area.

It is pleasing again to be able to report some progress in this matter. The number of new dwellings completed during the year is well above the average, both as regards those erected by private enterprise and dwelling-houses erected by the Council.

The figures are as follows:—

Dwelling-houses erected by Private Enterprise ...	64
Dwelling-houses erected by Local Authority ...	72

In my last report, I mentioned the possibility of improving Rural Housing conditions under the provisions of the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, and referred to the campaign to be launched by the Ministry of Health to bring these provisions to the notice of the public. At the commencement of the year 1937, during the nine years that the scheme had been in operation only thirteen applications for assistance had been received, eleven of these being approved and the dwellings reconditioned under the provisions of the Act.

As a result of negotiations with owners, and the publicity given, applications for assistance were received in respect of the reconditioning of 23 rural dwellings, all of which applications were accompanied by plans and specifications in detail, which were approved, and the works satisfactorily completed.

It is fitting that the Authorised Officer of the Council for this Scheme should be the Sanitary Inspector as such work is closely allied to Housing Act problems.

At the close of the year, the Council were able to re-house the occupants of the Clearance Areas at Therfield, in new cottages situate at Hay Green, in that village.

The figures for housing work are given in the accompanying table.

Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	660
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	1680
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	84
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	172
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	56
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	116

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	80
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	75
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—		
(a) By Owners	... ..	61
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	...	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	...	10

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part iv — Overcrowding.

(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	286
(b)	Number of new cases reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
(c)	Number of cases overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
	Number of persons concerned	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of the overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Of the 13 cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 4 were provided with accommodation in existing Council Cottages, four themselves found alternative accommodation, and 5 abated the overcrowding by reduction of the number of inhabitants of the houses, mainly by marriage of the elder children.

The erection of houses for the abatement of overcrowding under the Housing Act, 1936, was well in hand at the end of the year, and it is anticipated that the 33 cases reported will be abated during the year, 1938, in consequence thereof.

Milk Supply.

There are 155 Registered Cowkeepers in the area, of these 100 are retail purveyors and 55 are wholesale purveyors. There are also 30 Retail Purveyors of milk only

During the year 1937, only 12 samples were taken for Bacteriological Examination, this being due to the County taking samples through the Veterinary Inspectors for the examination of designated milks, and causing, to some extent, an overlapping. The results of the samples taken were good. The standard of cow-sheds is steadily improving, due to the regular inspections carried out having a beneficial effect on the producer.

Milk and Dairies Act and Orders.

Retail Purveyors.

Number of applications for registration during the year	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number previously registered	...	...	...	...	...	29
Total on register	...	...	...	...	30	

Cow-keepers and Producers.

Number of applications for registration during the year	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number previously registered	...	...	...	...	...	152
Total on register	...	...	...	...	155	
Number of Inspections carried out	...	...	...	...	...	844
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	62
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	52

Milk (Special Designations) Order.

Under this heading the following Licenses were issued during the year 1937:—

License in respect of the establishment at which Accredited Milk is bottled	...	...	1
License in respect of the establishment at which T.T. Milk is sold	...	...	1
Supplementary License to sell Pasteurised Milk	...	...	1

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies.

Meat.

There are 15 Slaughter-houses in the area, and every effort is made to regularly attend each Slaughter-house and inspect all animals slaughtered, but the large area to be covered and the distance apart makes this extremely difficult ; fortunately, the co-operation of the Butchers is good and their obligations under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are carried out in the best possible manner. The stunning of all animals is carried out by humane-killer, and it is worth recording that the standard and quality of meat slaughtered in the area is generally high and all the slaughter-houses are satisfactorily maintained.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, 33 persons were licensed to Slaughter Animals.

There is one Knackers Yard in the District which is always well maintained and kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Record of Inspections.

	Beasts	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
Number of Animals Slaughtered	936	2604	3270	6
Number of Animals Inspected	664	1392	1280	6
Number of whole carcasses condemned	3	0	5	0
Total weight condemned for Tuberculosis and other diseases	2050 lbs.	195 lbs.	745 lbs.	
Number of seizures	0	0	0	0
Percentage of Inspections carried out —	49.9%			
Visits to other food premises —	144.			

Other articles condemned:—

Fruit, vegetable and 4 tins corned beef.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(1) Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers prosecuted
Factories	26	2	Nil
Workshops	38	6	Nil
Workplaces	21	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	85	8	Nil

(2) Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—

Particulars	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied	No. defects referred to H.M. In-spector	No. of Prosecutions Instituted
Want of cleanliness	4	4	Nil	Nil
Sanitary accommodation —				
Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable and defective	4	4	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	8	8	Nil	Nil

Control of Infectious Diseases.

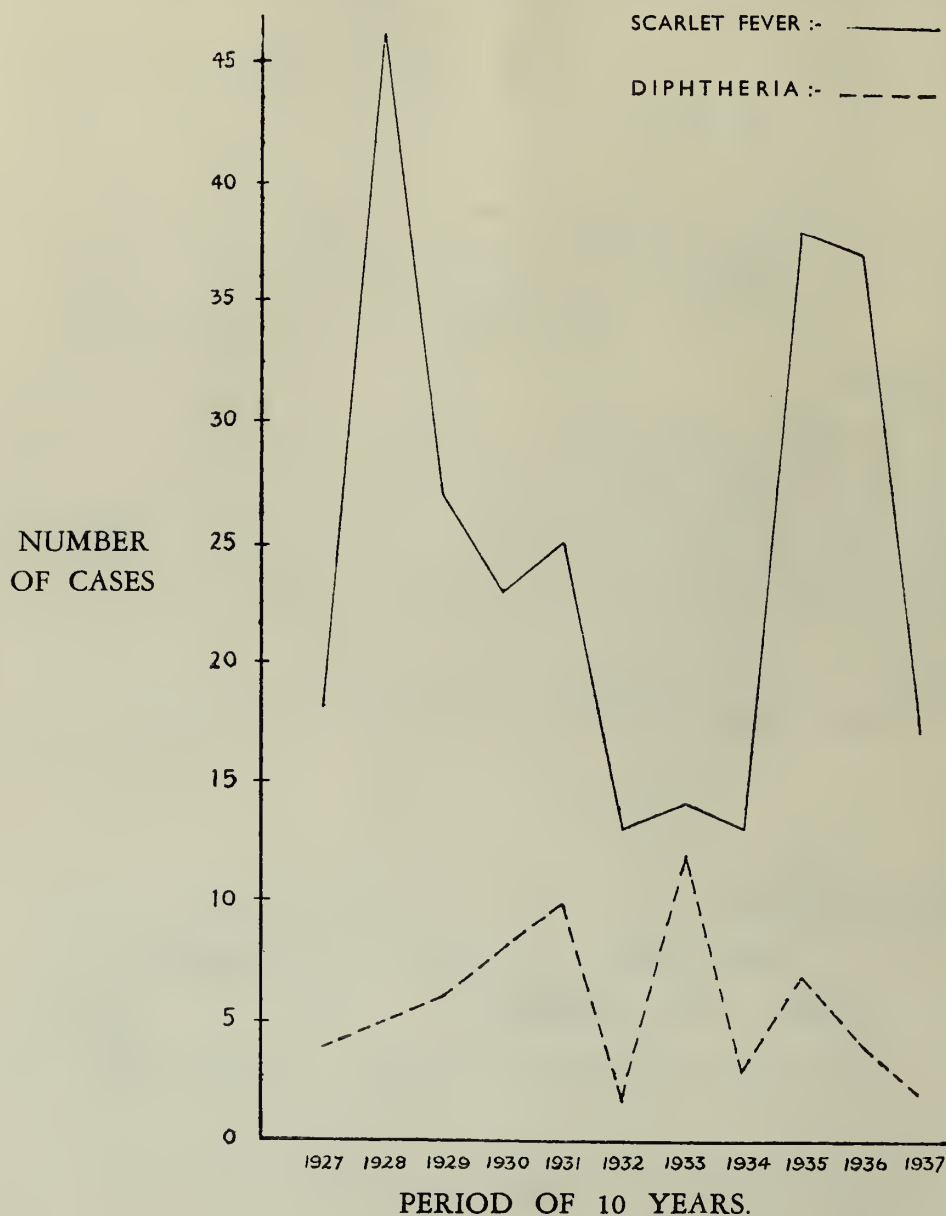
The following cases were notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	15
Diphtheria	2
Pneumonia	5
Chicken Pox	11
Erysipelas	4
Enteric Fever	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Puerperal Fever	1
Tuberculosis —	
Pulmonary	9
Non-Pulmonary	2

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality.

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 15	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 - 25	3	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
25 - 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 55	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 - 65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
and over								
TOTALS ...	5	4	2	1	3	1	—	—

GRAPH SHOWING RISE & FALL OF SCARLET FEVER & DIPHTHERIA OVER A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS



One School, at Holwell was closed, and thorough disinfection carried out, due to a mild epidemic of Scarlet Fever.

Immediate fumigation is carried out at all cases as soon as notification is received, by means of Formaldehyde generators and spraying. All contacts are visited to check the possibility of spread of infection and all data and particulars recorded and all necessary action taken.

Number of premises visited	...	...	...	...	38
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	23
Number of rooms and articles sprayed	...	...	...	...	18

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Regular inspections numbering 136, are carried out for the extermination of these pests and increased attention paid during National Rat Week, November 1st to 6th, 1937. Many enquiries were made on complaints being received, and advice given with regard to baits and poison used. A number of cases of bad infestation were dealt with, and satisfaction obtained through the co-operation of the County Rats Officer, Captain J. Dubbin. Special attention at all times is paid to the Council's Refuse Tips, where the use of Cyano-gas and Red Squill Biscuits is giving exceedingly good results.

Eradication of Bed Bugs (*Cimex Lectularius*) and other Pests.

Number of Council Houses infested	4
Number of privately owned houses infested	11
Number of Houses disinfested	15

The method adopted in this area is the use of Sulphur generators combined with the use of Zaldecide spraying, and has been found highly efficient. Advice is also given to tenants for the necessity of a greater amount of attention to cleanliness and the use of soap, soda and water ; this, also, has been found to give the required result.

Sulphur blocks and Zaldecide spraying was also used in dealing with several cases of infestation with Fleas (*Pulex Irritans*). Advice was also given in dealing with the Black Beetle and ants.

Conclusion.

I have again to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, to the Clerk and the Surveyor, for their ready assistance and continued interest in matters relating to the health of the District, and to the Sanitary Inspectors for the willing co-operation which has in no small degree contributed to the succesful working of the Department and the achievements herein recorded.

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H.,

July, 1938.

Medical Officer of Health.

